



St Clement's Church Ewell
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 Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel and Brighton
 Charity No. 252878



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Octave

Sunday 20 th December 2020 Psalter Week 4 Cycle B			Sunday 27 th December 2020 Psalter Week 1 Cycle B		
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Evan Lawrence RIP	Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	Mary Edwardson RIP
Sunday 20 Dec	8.30 am 10.30 am	Patrick Brennan RIP All Parishioners	Sunday 27 Dec Holy Family	8.30 am 10.30 am	Teresa Petrozzi RIP Christopher Keogh RIP
Wednesday	10.00 am	No Public Mass	Wednesday	10.00 am	Well-being of Morris Fam.
Thursday 24 December		Vigil Christmas Eve First Mass of Christmas Int of the O'Connell Fam. All Parishioners	Fri 01 Jan 2021	10.00 am	Deceased of the Parish
	6.00 pm 10.00 pm		Saturday (Vigil)	6.00 pm	All Parishioners
Friday 25 December		Christmas Day Fr Michael Gwinnell RIP Mary Jo Byrne RIP	Second Sunday of Christmas	8.30 am 10.30 am	Holy Souls William Sinnott RIP
	8.30 am 10.30 am		3 Jan		

FEAST DAYS: 20th – 26th December

Saturday: St Stephen, First Martyr

ANNIVERSARIES: 20th – 26th December

Alice Lucas/Agnes Smith, Joe Mallett, Kay Burrows, James Murchan, Joyce Hooper, Carolina Lomas, David Robinson, Patrick Coyne, Richard Nallen, Arthur Venturi, Bridget Travers, Elizabeth Jaye, Joy Olivier, John McNamee

RECOVERY AND WELL-BEING: Please pray for: Steve Kamm, Chris Williamson, Bernie Sullivan, Felice Prince-Wright, Mary Frost, Maureen O'Sullivan, Margaret Harris, Jocelyn Bowen.

DEATHS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Tony Bellino who died recently. Our sympathy to Georgette, his wife and daughter Susanna. Requiem Mass and Funeral Wednesday, 23rd December. (Restricted numbers) No 10.00 am Mass.

Please also remember Ann Gibbons, a former parishioner who has died

Please also remember Michael O'Connell who has died recently.

May they rest in peace.

FEAST DAYS: 27th Dec 2020 – 3rd January 2021

Monday: The Holy Innocents

Tuesday: St Thomas Beckett

1st January 2021

Friday Mary, Mother of God

ANNIVERSARIES: 27th Dec 2020 – 3rd January 2021

Arthur Hunt, Pat Weeks, Fr Francis Young, Shane Kennedy, Terence Mahon, Mollie Grange, Henry Foulds, Richard Miller, Honora Parker, Lily Allison, Marjory Donovan, Elsie Jillians, Lilia McCarthy, Alice Kinsella

A CHRISTMAS HOME SERVICE SHEET which can be used if attendance at church or streaming Mass on Christmas Day is not possible, is available at church or to download from the parish website. It can be used in families or alone.

200 CLUB WINNERS:

1st Jane Kinnett No.236 £200 2nd Norah Haigh No.168 £50

Congratulations!

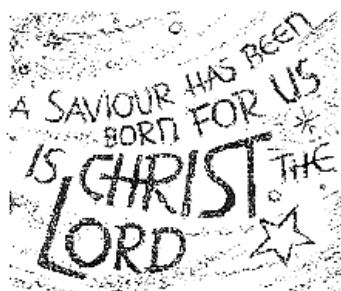
Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We are now moving rapidly through the Season of Advent towards the Holy Season of Christmas. This fourth Sunday of Advent we focus on the role of Mary and gives us the opportunity of say thankyou for her role in humanity's salvation and giving us the4 Messiah, Mary (our Lady), has always a big part in the life of the Church and its history. Quite rightly so! Many old and new Cathedrals and churches have chapels devoted to her honour.

I want to say again, a big thankyou to all involved in keeping our church safe.

May I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas although it will be different this year. Hopefully, a better year Faces us.

God Bless, Fr Graham



REFLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS

In this Christmas season we celebrate the Incarnation, which is a divine border-crossing in which God became human to dwell among us. Jesus crossed borders throughout his ministry, with those of other regions, with poor people and rich people, with women, with children, with those in authority. His life began when no one would make room for his family. The rest of his life was spent making room for outsiders to be included in the fullness of God's love. We are called to follow this generous outreach to others.

And it is difficult to reach out in love to others without having the stability of loving relationships within our own families. We have the role model of the Holy Family, and we can all work towards

holiness in our own families, recognising the sacredness in everything we do together – from our meals shared to our reconciliations after tensions. Through finding ordinary ways of deepening our relationship with our extraordinary God we become families of faith.



than a startling new future is proposed. Mary gives up her own wishes in order to adopt God's desire; she gives up personal control of her life in favour of God's promise; in her response she pledges her body and spirit to the purposes of God.

Mary assists the struggle of God to be one like us. There is something dangerously new about Mary. She is the woman at the centre of the Christian story. It is a woman, not a man, who brings God's real presence into the world. Through her the presence of the *Christos* Kyrios will be known and celebrated.

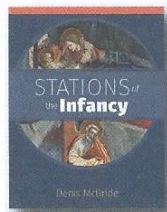
PRAYER

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known
that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help or sought thy intercession,
was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee,
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother;
to thee do I come, before thee I stand,
sinful and sorrowful;
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

Fr Denis McBride's book *Stations of the Infancy* is available from Redemptorist Publications. Visit www.rpbooks.co.uk to order. CODE:1861 ISBN: 9780852315590



Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

**Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.**

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

PSALM Psalm 88

RESPONSE **I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim
your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the
heavens. **R.**
2. "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages." **R.**

3. He will say to me: "You are my father,
my God, the rock who saves me."
I will keep my love for him always;
for him my covenant shall endure. **R.**

SECOND READING Romans 16:25-27

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!!**

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called Emmanuel.**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19
Luke 2:22-40

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SUNDAY BULLETIN

THINKING FAITH

Stations of the Infancy



In this series, based on his book *Stations of the Infancy*, Fr Denis McBride C.Ss.R. looks at the Gospel beginnings of the Jesus story and helps us to reflect on them in our prayers.

THE ANNUNCIATION TO MARY



VIRGIN ANNUNCIATE,
ANTONELLO DA MESSINA, 1476

In paintings of the annunciation you usually see the angel Gabriel visiting Mary with God's message. Antonello focuses on Mary alone as she is interrupted during her reading. She is neither crowned nor does she have a halo: she is a young woman of Nazareth. In this painting we, not Gabriel, are the viewers. Each of us is invited to look at Mary,

without Gabriel and without the distraction of a background, as she graciously responds to God's word.

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

REFLECTION

Mary gives the classic response of the disciple when challenged by the word of God: "Let what you have said be done to me." That is her annunciation, her consent to hand over her body and spirit to God's purpose. The love that offers itself is the love that must wait. That is why there are two annunciations: God's annunciation to Mary and Mary's annunciation to God. God's best plans can only happen when there is human cooperation, when God's word and our word come together. When those two annunciations come together, God's word always becomes flesh.

Mary, like all mothers, gives over her body and mind and soul so that new life may be born. She does this so that a life larger than hers may take its own place in the world. All mothers must wait for the gradual process that is happening within them; they must learn to let go of the child within them. They must not only nurture the presence of the child within them; they must nurture the leaving of the child. The act of childbirth is the painful act of letting go, so that the life within can take its own separate place in the world. Mary's vocation is not only to hold Jesus within her but to let him go, let him become the person he must become.

Whatever Mary was planning for her life with Joseph, it did not include becoming pregnant outside that relationship. An unexpected word interrupts the routine of life and proposes a groundbreaking diversion from what is planned; nothing less

20 DECEMBER 2020

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR B

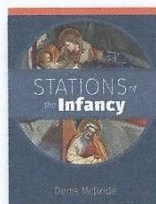
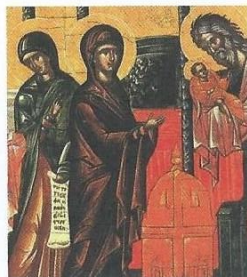
DIVINE OFFICE WEEK IV

for years! This wonderful, attentive old woman now carries the story to all who have been waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. The waiting is over; the Gospel begins.

PRAYER

Father of mercies and God of all comfort: abide, we pray with all your people as they face the evening of life. Comfort them with the assurance of your presence; grant them the grace of your abounding peace; let your light shine on their path and be with them until their days are over. We pray also for all those people who serve you in the person of the aged and who devote themselves to their welfare. May they always give their service with love and devotion, with patience and cheerfulness. Amen.

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Mass text

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

PSALM Psalm 104

RESPONSE **He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. O sing to him, sing his praise; tell all his wonderful works! **R.**
2. Be proud of his holy name, let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice. Consider the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face. **R.**
3. Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, the judgements he spoke. O children of Abraham, his servant, O sons of the Jacob he chose. **R.**
4. He remembers his covenant for ever, his promise for a thousand generations, the covenant he made with Abraham, the oath he swore to Isaac. **R.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

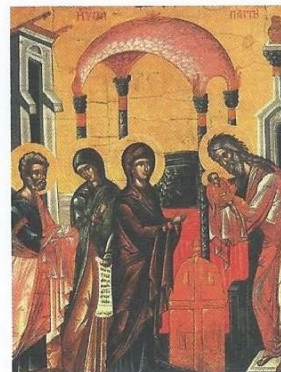
Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

Next Sunday's Readings:

(E&W) Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2. 8-12
Ephesians 1:3-6. 15-18
John 1:1-18

(S) Isaiah 60:1-6
Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6
Matthew 2:1-12

THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE



THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE, GREEK ICON, ANONYMOUS

Central to this icon is the ciborium, a covering supported by four columns that stands over the altar in a basilica. Mary hands over her son into the covered hands of Simeon, the prophet who has waited all his life to welcome this unique child. Behind Mary stands Anna, identifiable as a prophetess by the scroll she holds. Anna looks down at Joseph's offering – two turtle doves – which was the regular offering of poor people.

Reading: Luke 2:25-38

REFLECTION

The parents of Jesus take him to the Temple in Jerusalem, where they meet two waiting people, Simeon and Anna. As old people they are connected with the past of promise and with memory; Luke presents them as *anawim* – the devout remnant of those who wait on the ancient promise.

Simeon and Anna have spent their lives in longing to see the fulfilment of those promises. They are an unusual couple of old people because their total concern is for the future. They don't live backwards, but forwards. Something yet to happen draws their lives onwards. They are alive with expectation and hope, waiting for the one who will be the consolation of their own people and the light for the Gentiles. They do not live in the past; Simeon and Anna inhabit the here and now. So you watch Simeon take the child into his arms; you watch old age reach out for the flesh of a promise fulfilled, gathering this promise into his quieting arms. And you hear him break into the poetry of the Nunc Dimittis.

And Anna: she is like some of the old women who seem always to be around our churches, praying and waiting, praying and waiting, and watching. Anna is always around the Temple night and day. She makes herself God's neighbourhood watch, and she has an energetic nose for what is happening in her neighbour's house. An inquisitive woman of faith, she is on permanent lookout: nothing is going to get past this old timepiece. Her timing is exquisite, since, Luke says, "She came by just at that moment" – she has been hanging around

Stations of the Infancy



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27 DECEMBER 2020

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

YEAR B

DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 1